

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell (DMFC), comprising:

an integrated cathode electrode sheet comprising a first copper clad laminate (CCL)  
5 substrate, a plurality of cathode electrode areas, a plurality of first conductive via through  
holes, wherein each of the cathode electrode areas is electroplated on a front side and  
backside of the first CCL substrate and has a plurality of first apertures therein, wherein  
the first conductive via through holes are disposed outside the cathode electrode areas and  
is are electrically connected to respective cathode electrode areas with a conductive wire;  
10 wherein surface area of the first apertures within each of the cathode electrode areas is  
more than 50% of surface area of each of the cathode electrode areas;

a membrane electrode assembly (MEA) unit comprising a plurality of proton  
exchange membranes corresponding to the plurality of cathode electrode areas;

an intermediate bonding layer comprising at least one bonding sheet, wherein the  
15 intermediate bonding layer comprises a plurality of openings for respectively  
accommodating the plurality of proton exchange membranes, and a plurality of second  
conductive via through holes that are aligned with the first conductive via through holes;

an integrated anode electrode sheet comprising a second CCL substrate, a plurality  
of anode electrode areas corresponding to the plurality of ~~cathode~~ the anode electrode  
20 areas[[,]] , wherein each of the ~~cathode~~ anode electrode areas is electroplated on a front  
side and backside of the second CCL substrate and has a plurality of second apertures  
therein, and a plurality of conductive pads are disposed outside the anode electrode areas  
and corresponding to the second conductive via through holes; wherein surface area of  
the second apertures within each of the anode electrode areas is more than 50% of surface  
25 area of each of the anode electrode areas; and

a fuel container mounted on the integrated anode electrode sheet.

2. (Currently amended) The flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell of claim 1 wherein both

of the anode electrode area and the cathode electrode area~~comprises~~ comprise a copper clad base layer, a chemically deposited copper layer on the copper clad base layer, an electroplated copper layer on the chemically deposited copper layer, and a conductive protection layer on the electroplated copper layer.

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3. (Original) The flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell of claim 2 wherein the conductive protection layer comprises Ni/Au.

10 4. (Original) The flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell of claim 1 wherein proton exchange membrane is a solid-state proton exchange membrane.

5. (Original) The flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell of claim 1 wherein the bonding sheet is made of Prepreg B-stage resin.

15 6. (Original) The flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell of claim 5 wherein the Prepreg B-stage resin can be completely cured at about 140°C for a time period of about 30 minutes.

20 7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

25 9. (Original) The flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell of claim 1 wherein, in assembly, the MEA unit is installed into the openings of the intermediate bonding layer, which is then adhesively sandwiched by the integrated cathode electrode sheet and the integrated anode electrode sheet, wherein the conductive via through holes of the integrated cathode electrode sheet are aligned, and in contact, with respective conductive via through holes of the intermediate bonding layer, which are aligned with the conductive via through

holes of the integrated thin anode electrode sheet.

10. (Withdrawn) A method for fabricating an integrated cathode electrode sheet of a flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell, the method comprising:

- 5        providing a CCL (copper clad laminate) substrate comprising a base layer, a first copper layer laminated on an upper surface of the base layer, and a second copper layer laminated on a lower surface of the base layer;
- drilling the CCL substrate within pre-selected electrode areas to form a plurality of apertures through the first copper layer, the base layer and the second copper layer;
- 10        chemically depositing a third copper layer on the CCL substrate and interior sidewalls of inside the apertures;
- forming a patterned resist layer on the CCL substrate to expose the pre-selected electrode areas;
- using the patterned resist layer as a plating mask, performing an electroplating
- 15        process to electroplate a fourth copper layer within the expose the pre-selected electrode areas and area not covered by the patterned resist layer, and then electroplating a Sn/Pb layer on the fourth copper layer;
- stripping the patterned resist layer;
- performing a copper etching process to etch away the third copper layer and the first
- 20        and second copper layer that are not covered by the Sn/Pb layer; and
- removing the Sn/Pb layer to expose the fourth copper layer.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10 wherein after removing the Sn/Pb layer, the method further comprises the following steps:

- 25        coating a solder resist layer outside the pre-selected electrode areas; and
- electroplating a conductive protection layer on the fourth copper layer.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the conductive protection

layer comprises Ni/Au.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the conductive protection layer comprises Sn/Pb.

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14. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the conductive protection layer comprises chemical silver.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10 wherein the apertures occupy at least 50% the surface area of the pre-selected electrode areas.

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16. (New) The flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell of claim 1 wherein both of the first and second CCL substrate comprise a base layer, a first copper layer laminated on an upper surface of the base layer, and a second copper layer laminated on a lower surface of the base layer.

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17. (New) The flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell of claim 16 wherein the base layer is made of glass fiber reinforced polymeric materials.

18. (New) The flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell of claim 17 wherein the glass fiber reinforced polymeric materials comprise ANSI-grade FR-1, FR-2, FR-3, FR-4, FR-5, CEM-1 or CEM-3.

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19. (New) The flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell of claim 1 further comprising a control circuit layout integrated on the first or second CCL substrate for controlling the DMFC and an external circuit.

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20. (New) The flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell of claim 1 wherein both of the

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integrated cathode electrode sheet and the integrated anode electrode sheet are coated with a layer of solder resist.

21. (New) The flat-panel direct methanol fuel cell of claim 1 wherein the corresponding  
5 first conductive via through hole of the integrated cathode electrode sheet, the second  
conductive via through hole of the intermediate bonding layer, and the conductive pad of  
the integrated anode electrode sheet are soldered together.